

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer system for the display of a selection guide for multiple sources
2 information:
3 a means to produce a visual display, said visual display comprised of a grid
4 containing guide cells;
5 a means to place in at least some of said displayed guide cells icons;
6 means for a user to select from displayed icons; and
7 wherein said selected icons are linked to executable instructions, which are unique
8 to a given icon and which are dependent upon the other information, other than said icon
9 displayed in a given cell and further wherein said icons distinguish from a plurality of
10 possible executable actions that said icon represents.

- 1 2. A system as in Claim 1 further comprising:
2 means to cause said icons to selectively appear to be animated; and
3 means to cause said icons to selectively appear to be of a three dimensional
4 nature.

- 1 3. A system for the display of graphical information comprising:
2 a means to display a graphical image;
3 at least one means to receive a plurality of video sources;
4 a means to select between said received plurality of video program sources and
5 to display said sources on said graphical device;
6 means to reproduce sound;
7 means to select from a plurality of sound sources and to provide said selected
8 sound sources to said means to reproduce sound;
9 means to display text;
10 means to select from a variety of text sources and to provide to said means to
11 display text said selected text sources;
12 computational means to acquire, from at least one incoming signal, digital
13 information to be processed into a content guide such that said acquired information
14 comprises information as to at least some of the content of the plurality of video program
15 sources, said plurality of said sound sources and said text sources.

1 4. A system as in Claim 3 wherein:
2 said means to acquire digital information is coupled to said means to receive
3 video signals and said acquisition is from information imbedded within the vertical
4 blanking interval of the received video signals.

1 5. A system as in Claim 3 further comprising:
2 processor means to produce graphically icons, linked to a program material
3 displayed in a grid like manner, to be displayed on said display device in response to the
4 digital signals acquired by said acquired means; and storage means to store said
5 graphically linked objects.

1 6. A system as in Claim 5 further comprising:
2 a modem coupled to said processor means for connection to on-line services.

1 7. A system as in Claim 5 further comprising:
2 selection means coupled to said processor means for allowing a user to select
3 from and activate displayed graphically linked objects.

1 8. A system as in Claim 7 further comprising:
2 hyper-link following means contained within said processor means for causing
3 said processor to execute a series of software commands that are executed based upon
4 stored information with respect to a selected and stored displayed graphically linked
5 object.

1 9. A computer system for the display of graphical information comprising:
2 a means to display a graphical image;
3 at least one means to receive a plurality of video program sources;
4 a means to select between said received plurality of video program sources and
5 to display said video program sources on said graphical device;
6 means to reproduce sound;
7 means to select from a plurality of sound sources and to provide a selected sound
8 source to said means to reproduce sound;
9 means to display text;

10 means to select from a variety of text sources and to provide to said means to
11 provide a display of text based on a selected text sources;
12 computational means to acquire, from at least one incoming signal, digital
13 information to be processed into a content guide such that said acquired information
14 comprises information as to at least some of the content of the plurality of video program
15 sources, said plurality of said sound sources and said text sources.

1 10. A system as in Claim 9 further comprising:

2 processor means to produce graphically linked objects to be displayed on said
3 display device base in response to the digital signals acquired by said acquired means; and
4 storage means to store said graphically linked objects.

1 11. A system as in Claim 1 further comprising:

2 means to upon selection of an icon provide an automatic connection for the
3 ordering of goods.

1 12. A system as in Claim 1 further comprising:

2 means to upon selection of an icon provide an automatic connection for the
3 ordering of a service.

1 13. A system for the display of content for multiple sources comprising:

2 a central processing unit;

3 a display circuit coupled to said central processing unit;

4 a hypertext linking engine coupled to said central processing unit and said display
5 circuit;

6 and wherein said hypertext linking engine provides a command to said display
7 circuit to display in a grid arrangement listings as to the content of at least two of said
8 multiple sources and icons to provide a link to an external resource.